(d) if so, the details regarding the increase in the profits of oil companies belonging to public and private sector?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The selling price of diesel was last revised by the oil marketing companies (OMCs) effective mid-night of 4th/5th November 2004. As a result of this revision, the retail selling price (RSP) of diesel in Delhi increased from Rs. 24.16/litre to Rs. 26.28/litre. As regards petrol, the last revision took place effective mid-night of 15th/16th November 2004. As a result of this revision, the RSP of petrol in New Delhi came down from Rs. 39.00/litre to Rs. 37.84/litre.

(c) and (d) The profit after tax of oil marketing companies as per unaudited financial results for the period October-December '04 as compared to October—December '03 are tabulated below:

	Rs./Crores	
	Oct-Dec. '04	Oct-Dec. '03
IOC	1286.76	2403.44
BPC	145.70	484.30
HPC	235.92	775.71
IBP	(-)98.01	39.25
Total	1570.37	3702.70

As regards the private sector oil companies, the information is being collected.

ONGC's Power Plants

98. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major power plants under ONGC in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any plan to set up new plants in Andhra Pradesh in the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Other than captive power plants for consumption by operational units, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) do not have power plants either in Andhra Pradesh or anywhere

else in the country. Nor do ONGC propose to set up any such plants except, perhaps, small power plants in States like Tripura to monetize idle & locked up gas pools. From the national perspective of Energy Security, of which oil security is an essential component, ONGC remain committed to their core functions viz., the exploration and production of oil and gas. Diversification into other areas can only be supplemental to, and not at the cost of, concentration on their areas of core competence.

Crude oil prices in International Market

†99. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of crude oil in international market were all time high during October and November, 2004.

(b) if so, what was the highest price and when this prevailed;

(c) wheter it is also a fact tht the prices of crude oil in international market have declined since then; and

(d) if so, the lowest prices in international market recorded since first week of November, 2004 to February, 2005 and the average price assessed during November, 2004 to February 15, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The trend in the movement of monthly average price of the Indian basket of crude oil for the period from April 2004 onwards is given in the Statement. (*See* below). During the year 2004-05 (upto the 24th February 2005), the price of the Indian basket of crude oil was the highest on 24.2.05 at US$ 45.57/barrel. The lowest price of the Indian basket of crude oil between the 1st November 2004 and the 15th February 2005 was US$ 34.68/barrel (on 13.12.2004) and the average price during that period was US$ 38.27/barrel.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.